

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12901

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA KS

SUBJ: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS: PROSPECTS FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. ON EVE OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, SERIOUS DIVERGENCES STILL EXIST ON CONTENT OF MEETING AND SHAPE OF COMMUNIQUE. SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE DEPENDS ON KOREAN AGREEMENT TO CONCENTRATE ON FORM RATHER THAN CONTENT. VAGUENESS ABOUT SUBSTANCE NOTWITHSTANDING, GOJ IN EARNEST ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ROK. END SUMMARY.

1. DEP PRIM MIN FUKUDA TOLD AMB SEPT 12 THAT UPCOMING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN SEOUL IS MEANT TO SIGNIFY END OF DIFFICULT PERIOD IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS MARRED BY KIM DAE-JUNG ABDUCTION AND ASSASSINATION OF MADAME PARK. CONFERENCE WILL MARK BEGINNING OF NEW ERA IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

2. THOUGH BOTH SIDES AGREE ON BROAD SIGNIFICANCE OF CONFERENCE AS OUTLINED BY FUKUDA, GOVERNMENTS REMAIN SPLIT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES INVOLVING BOTH CONTENT OF MEETING AND WAY IT TO BE PRESENTED TO PUBLIC. ACCORDING
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TO FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR ENDO, PROBLEMS EXIST IN

FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. SHAPE OF COMMUNIQUE - JAPANESE WOULD LIKE BRIEF GENERAL DOCUMENT OUTLINING GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RELATIONSHIP. WITH DIET BACK IN SESSION, THEY WANT TO GIVE OPPOSITION AS SMALL A TARGET AS POSSIBLE. KOREANS, ON OTHER HAND, WOULD LIKE DETAILED DOCUMENT CONTAINING STRONG DESCRIPTION OF THREAT TO NORTH AND VERBATIM REAFFIRMATION OF 1969 "ROK CLAUSE" IN NIXON-SATO COMMUNIQUE.

B. ECONOMIC COOPERATION - KOREANS WOULD LIKE PRECISE LONG-TERM COMMITMENT FROM JAPAN WHICH COULD BE FACTORED DIRECTLY INTO NEW FOUR YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL PLAN BEGINNING IN 1977. JAPANESE, FUKUDA TOLD AMB WILL NOT BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS ACTUAL FIGURES. AS ENDO POINTED OUT, GOJ COMMITMENTS BASED ON ANNUAL BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS CANNOT BE PROJECTED LONG TERM. EVEN IF JAPAN ABLE TO COMMIT IN ADVANCE, IT WOULD NOT WANT TO GIVEN CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING STATE OF ECONOMY AND AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC REVENUES.

C. FUTURE MINISTERIALS - KOREANS WOULD LIKE COMMUNIQUE TO STATE THAT NEXT MINISTERIAL WILL BE HELD IN TOKYO NEXT YEAR. JAPANESE WILLING TO STATE THAT NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN TOKYO, BUT WOULD PREFER THAT DETAILS AND TIMING BE WORKED OUT LATER THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

3. COMMENT - SYMBOLISM OF CONFERENCE, AS DESCRIBED BY FUKUDA, MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO JAPANESE THAN SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS. SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE DEPENDS ON WHETHER KOREANS WILL AGREE TO CONCENTRATE ON FORM RATHER THAN CONTENT.

4. ABOVE DOES NOT MEAN THAT JAPANESE REGARD CONFERENCE AS EMPTY EXERCISE. ON CONTRARY, WE HAVE IMPRESSION JAPANESE LEADERSHIP HAVE MADE DECISION, WHICH THEY INTEND TO IMPLEMENT, TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO MOVE ROK RELATIONSHIP TO MORE CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS. FUKUDA'S PARTICIPATION PROBABLY INDICATES THIS. AND MIKI'S POLICY PROGRAM REQUIRES IT. AS ALWAYS, THOUGH, ROK REQUIREMENTS LOOK CONFIDENTIAL

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COSTLY TO THE JAPANESE. SEPTTEL DISCUSSES SPECIFICS OF AID TALKS.
HODGSON

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